

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/897,142

Examiner

Aaron Strange

Applicant(s)

YE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview on 9/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-12, now renumbered 2-6, 9, 7, 10, 11, 1, and 8.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
Dung C. Dinh  
Primary Examiner

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with C. Lamont Whitam (Reg. No. 22,424) on 9/28/2005.

#### IN THE CLAIMS:

2. In claim 7, **REPLACE** "automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users" **WITH** "automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party".

3. In claim 9, **REPLACE** "automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users" **WITH** "automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party".

4. In claim 10, **REPLACE** "automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users" **WITH** "automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of

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clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party”.

5. In claim 11, **REPLACE** “automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users” **WITH** “automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party”.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 2-12 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

8. With regard to independent claim 7, the prior art of record does not disclose a method as claimed, and as enabled by the specification, comprising: automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring energy model, and wherein the elastic spring energy model takes into consideration a user’s frustration level.

9. With regard to independent claim 9, the prior art of record does not disclose a method as claimed, and as enabled by the specification, comprising: automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring energy model, and wherein the elastic spring energy model determines potential energy vectors which encode awareness requirements.

10. With regard to independent claim 10, the prior art of record does not disclose a method as claimed, and as enabled by the specification, comprising: automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring energy model, and wherein the elastic spring energy model determines potential energy vectors which encode user preferences and awareness requirements.

11. With regard to independent claim 11, the prior art of record does not disclose a method as claimed, and as enabled by the specification, comprising: automatically adjusting a distance according to a degree of clarity, desired by individual users, of a corresponding signal received from another party and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring

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energy model, and wherein a matrix and vector look up model is used to determine the distances, and the values of the matrix encode user preferences of at least 2 users.

12. All claims depending from the above claims are allowable for at least the reasons above, in combination with the additional limitations they contain.

13. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron Strange whose telephone number is 571-272-3959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AS  
9/28/2005



Dung C. Dinh  
Primary Examiner